

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Standard Oil Company Filling Station Survey Number: PG68-91

Tax Parcel#: Block 4; Lots 35, 36, and 37

Project: MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) Planning Study from D.C. Line to 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Agency: MDOT-SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended ☒ X

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

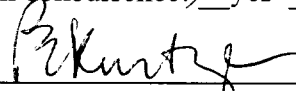
The Standard Oil Company Filling Station at 3800 Bladensburg Road is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the dwelling and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of a Craftsman-style bungalow, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form  
and MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) from D.C. Line to 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Planning Study Summary of Results

Prepared by: Traceries, 5420 Western Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 January 1998

   
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

 3/25/98  
Reviewer, NR Program Date

*Ornd*

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
(PG 68-91)

The Standard Oil Company Filling Station at 3800 Bladensburg Road, formerly the corner of Washington-Baltimore Boulevard and Barney Street, was built soon after December of 1923. The filling station, erected by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, appears to be the result of increased automotive traffic on Bladensburg Road during the early 1920s. Between 1919 and 1920, Cottage City was transformed from a rural to a suburban city. In 1922, funds were allocated by Congress to pave this busy thoroughfare. By 1923, bus transportation began replacing the failing trolley line. The increase in residents, number of motor vehicles, and the emphasis on gas supported transportation made this site well suited for a filling station. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey operated the filling station during this time, maintaining ownership of the property for forty-one years.

Designed in the Craftsman-style of architecture, the filling station is a one-story, one-bay wide brick building. A one-story, one-bay porte-cochere dominates the main facade. The porte-cochere is supported by brick piers and parged square posts. The filling station is set on a brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. A hipped ceramic tile roof with wide overhanging enclosed eaves and a wide entablature, ornamented with painted American flags, rests above the original building. The interior brick chimney, which is parged and has a corbeled cap, rises above the northwest hip of the ceramic tile roof. A large 1940s addition was constructed at the northwest end of the filling station. A shed roof, with parapet walls on the northeast and southwest sides, sits above the concrete block office.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG68-91

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Standard Oil Company Filling Station

common/other name Queens Motor Company

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2. Location

=====

street & number 3800 Bladensburg Rd. not for publication       

city or town Cottage City vicinity        state Maryland code MD

county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20722

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | Total      |

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes        Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No ☒

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
Prince George's County, MD

Inventory No. PG68-91  
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Brick, Stretcher Bond

roof Hipped: Ceramic Tile

walls Masonry: Brick, Stretcher Bond

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
Prince George's County, MD

Inventory No. PG68-91  
Page 3

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
Prince George's County, MD

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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance ca. 1923-1964  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates ca. 1923  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
Prince George's County, MD

Inventory No. PG68-91  
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Prince George's County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Nelson's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1923. Justus C. Nelson, 1923.

Polk's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1930-1931. R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 1930.

*A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland.* Compiled by Raleigh A. Donley, Jr. for the Bicentennial Committee, May 8, 1976.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Road  
Prince George's County, MD

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 12,870 square feet

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property at 3800 Bladensburg Road is designated as Lots 35, 36, and 37 of Block 5 of Cottage City, Maryland as indicated on Map 50, Grid A4, Subdivision 2804.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The property at 3800 Bladensburg Road has historically been associated with Lots 35, 36, and 37 of Block 5 of Cottage City, Maryland as indicated on Map 50, Grid A4, Subdivision 2804 since its construction circa 1923.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kristyna G. Olsen, Architectural Historian  
organization Traceries date January 20, 1998  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815  
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12. Property Owner  
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name Fred Bari  
street & number 3800 Bladensburg Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Cottage City state MD zip code 20769  
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-91

Section 7 Page 1

Standard Oil. Co. Filling Station  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

Designed in the Craftsman-style of architecture, the circa 1923 filling station located at 3800 Bladensburg Road is a one-story, one-bay wide brick building. A one-story, one-bay porte-cochere dominates the main facade. The porte-cochere is supported by brick piers and parged square posts. The filling station is set on a brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. A hipped ceramic tile roof with wide overhanging enclosed eaves and a wide entablature, ornamented with painted American flags, rests above the original building. The interior brick chimney, which is parged and has a corbeled cap, rises above the northwest hip of the ceramic tile roof. A large 1940s addition was constructed at the northwest end of the filling station. A shed roof, with parapet walls on the northeast and southwest sides, sits above the concrete block office.

Located at the north corner of Bladensburg Road and 38th Avenue, the site at 3800 Bladensburg Road slopes up 38th Avenue to the northwest. A paved car lot surrounds the building. The northeast edge of the property is defined by a wood fence.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The main facade, or southeast elevation, is one-story in height and one-bay wide. The elevation is pierced by two large original, one-light fixed windows with brick rowlock sills and square-edged wood surrounds. The transom above the paired windows has been enclosed. A one-story, one-bay porte-cochere stands in front of this elevation. The porte-cochere is supported by white-washed brick piers and parged square posts. The hipped ceramic tile roof and wide entablature are continuous over both the porte-cochere and the original building. The northwest addition is visible from the facade. It projects beyond the rear of the original filling station to the northeast and southwest. A single flush wood door with a wood surround punctures the southeast end of the rear addition.

The northeast elevation clearly illustrates significant alterations made to the one-story filling station. This elevation was originally two bays wide. The northwest addition of the one-story, concrete block office increased the overall length of the filling station by one-third. One window was located in the original portion of this elevation, but this opening has been infilled with concrete block. The solidier course brick lintel and rowlock sill

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-91

Section 7 Page 2

Standard Oil Co. Filling Station  
name of property  
Prince George's Co., MD  
county and state

=====

are still visible. At present, the only opening in the northeast elevation occurs in the office addition. A single flush metal door pierces the eastern end of the addition.

The northwest elevation of the original filling station is completely obscured by the one-story, 1940s office addition. The office is punctured by two randomly placed window openings. A one-light fixed wood window is extant. The second window opening has been infilled with plywood and mechanical equipment. Both openings have rowlock sills. The northeast and southwest parapet walls of the addition terminate at the upper corners of this elevation.

The one-story southwest elevation addresses 38th Avenue. A large window opening in the original filling station has been infilled with concrete block and a single flush metal door. The solidier course brick lintel and rowlock sill of the infilled window are still visible. The northwest addition is pierced by one fixed two-light metal window and one fixed one-light wood window. Both windows have brick rowlock sills. The northwest addition is also punctured by a single flush metal door.

**OUTBUILDINGS:**

A one-story, two-bay wide office with a side entrance is located to the northwest of the main building. This 1960s wood frame office has stuccoed walls and a shed roof clad in metal sheeting. Two large fixed one-light windows dominate the main elevation.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-91

Section 8 Page 1

Standard Oil Co. Filling Station  
name of property  
Prince George's Co., MD  
county and state

=====

The Standard Oil Company Filling Station at 3800 Bladensburg Road, formerly the corner of Washington-Baltimore Boulevard and Barney Street, was built soon after December of 1923. The filling station, erected by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, appears to be the result of increased automotive traffic on Bladensburg Road during the early 1920s. Between 1919 and 1920, Cottage City was transformed from a rural to a suburban city. In 1922, funds were allocated by Congress to pave this busy thoroughfare. By 1923, bus transportation began replacing the failing trolley line.<sup>1</sup> The increase in residents, number of motor vehicles, and the emphasis on gas supported transportation made this site well suited for a filling station. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey operated the filling station during this time, maintaining ownership of the property for forty-one years.

Automobiles and the accompanying new structures to service, maintain and house them changed the face of the urban street and rural roadways across the country at the beginning of the twentieth century. Through all its design manifestations, from the earliest simple shed and shelter-type stations, the artistic structures of the 1920s and 1930s, the modernistic forms of the mid-twentieth century and on to today's minimalist structures, the gas station reminds us of the golden days of service to the automobile.<sup>2</sup>

The Standard Oil Company Filling Station is a symbol of the rise of the automobile in this country. Designed to fit harmoniously into the existing context and to promote a solid and respectable image, the gas stations of this period were intended to be viewed as civic assets and, in fact, did much to dispel the poorly regarded image of previously constructed gas stations.

The property is located within the town of Cottage City, which was gradually developed between 1915 and 1930. The Highlands Company, incorporated in 1888, purchased approximately sixty-four acres of land lying between the B&O Railroad line and the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike; an area then known as "The Highlands."<sup>3</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> *A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland*. Compiled by Raleigh A. Donley, Jr. for the Bicentennial Committee, May 8, 1976, p 28-30.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Karl Witzel, *The American Gas Station* (Osceola, WI: Motor Books International Publishers, 1992), p.7.

<sup>3</sup> Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 2

Standard Oil Co. Filling Station  
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county and state

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May 1906, the full sixty-four-acre tract was sold to three men, J. Harris Rogers, James C. Rogers, and Richard N. Ryon, who had the area platted under the name "Cottage City" in 1906.<sup>4</sup> Despite its accessibility to downtown Washington, DC via the Bladensburg Road electric streetcar line, several efforts to develop the area failed. It was not until 1915 that Charles M. Lightbown, who had begun buying up lots in the newly platted town in 1906, borrowed money to construct five modest frame "cottages" which he sold to working-class families.<sup>5</sup> By 1925, the town of Cottage City had developed into a substantial suburb with access to the District of Columbia via Bladensburg Road and the B&O Railroad. Today, the town contains over 322 single- and dual-family dwellings and around thirty apartment units.

The filling station is sited on Lots 35, 36, and 37 of Block five within the limits of Cottage City. The Standard Oil Company purchased Lot 37 from Augustus and Letitia Plumber in November of 1923 and Lots 35 and 36 from Charles and Maud Lightbown in December of that same year. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, later to be called the Humble Oil Refining Company of Delaware,<sup>6</sup> retained possession of the filling station until June of 1964, when the property was purchased by Tracy and Angela Haines. The property most likely took on its present function as a automobile sales lot after the 1964 transfer of ownership. Between 1964 and 1984, the property was sold and repurchased by the Haines family. The current owner, Fred Bari, bought the land in March of 1988.

This Craftsman-style filling station is a typical example of filling station architecture from the 1920s. The ceramic tile hipped roof and porte-cochere of 3800 Bladensburg Road were common elements utilized in this type of building. The location of this building along Bladensburg Road is also consistent with its

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<sup>4</sup> Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317; and Liber 57, Folio 426. The 1906 plat of Cottage City was recorded in Liber B.D.S. 1, Folio 10.

<sup>5</sup> *A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland*, p.31.

<sup>6</sup> According to Liber 3061, Folio 246, the Humble Oil Refining Company of Delaware was the successor by merger to Esso Standard Oil Company, formally the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Prince George's County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Standard Oil Co. Filling Station

name of property

Prince George's Co., MD

county and state

=====

function. Bladensburg Road, with its connection to Washington and Baltimore, provided a great influence over the development of domestic and commercial architecture in this area. The location of the Standard Oil Company Filling Station was a natural result of the strong commercial development directly along this well traveled route.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-91

Standard Oil Co. Filling Station  
name of property  
Prince George's Co., MD  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:**

Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/ Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and Community  
Planning  
Economic

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Suburban

**Historic Function (s):** COMMERCE/TRADE/ Specialty Store

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-91

Standard Oil Co. Filling Station

name of property

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=====  
**Chain of Title:**

DEED A: Lot 37

July 1, 1918: J. Harris Rogers of Hyattsville to Augustus J. and Letitia M. Plummer  
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City and  
Lot 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 134 Folio 147

November 30, 1923: Augustus J. and Letitia M. Plumber to Standard Oil Company of New Jersey  
Lot 37 of Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber SDH 204 Folio 115

DEED B: Lots 35, 36

January 3, 1910: J. Harris Rogers, James C. Rogers and Richard N. Ryon to Edwin W. Spalding  
Part of a portion of land originally containing 64 acres, part of which was subdivided by the grantors and called "Cottage City" (Plat recorded in Liber B.D.S. 1 Folio 10)  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 57 Folio 426

September 24, 1923: Edwin W. and Katherine L. Spalding to Charles M. and Maud E. Lightbown  
Lots 32, 33, 34, 35, 36; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 195 Folio 94

December 19, 1923: Charles M. and Maud E. Lightbown to Standard Oil Company  
Lots 35, 36; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber SDH 204 Folio 121

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Standard Oil. Co. Filling Station

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June 22, 1964: Humble Oil Refining Company of Delaware  
(Successor by merger to Esso Standard Oil  
Company formerly Standard Oil Company of New  
Jersey) to Tracy L. Haines and Angela C.  
Haines  
Lots 35, 36, 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 3061 Folio 246

February 25, 1969: Tracy L. Haines to Free State Properties, Inc.  
Lots 35, 36, 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 3691 Folio 304

October 28, 1974: Free State Properties, Inc. to Poe W. and  
Angela C. Haines  
Lots 35, 36, 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 4428 Folio 811

September 28, 1984: Poe W. and Angela C. Haines to Thomas B. and  
Mary June Ricker, Jr.  
Lots 35, 36, 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 5981 Folio 117

March 17, 1988: Thomas B. and Mary June Ricker, Jr. to Fred  
Bari  
Lots 35, 36, 37; Block 5 Cottage City  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 6922 Folio 919

# SKETCH MAP

Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
3800 Bladensburg Rd  
Cottage City, MD ; Prince George's County

PG 68-91

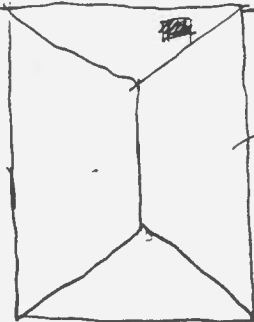


Shed  
not  
office

wood fence



parked  
lot



park  
cochere

Bladensburg Rd



WASHINGTON EAST, D.C.-MD.  
38076-H8-T8-024

1986  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
DMA 5661 IV NW-SERIES V833

QUEENS

MOTOR CO., INC.

779-1502

**AUTO SALE**



**SALE**

**SALE**



PG: 68-91

3800 Bladensburg Rd - Standard Oil Company Filling Station

Prince George's Co., MD

Tracenes

1/98

Maryland SHPO

Filling Station, SE Elevation

1 of 5



PG: 68-91

3800 Bladensburg Rd - Standard Oil Company Filling Station

Prince George's Co., MD

Tracenes

1/98

Maryland SHPO

Filling Station, NE Elevation

2 of 5



PG: 68-91

3800 Bladensburg Rd. - Standard Oil Company Filling Station  
Prince George's Co., MD

Tracenes

1/98

Maryland SHPO  
Filling Station, NW Elevation

3 of 5



PG: 68-91

3800 Badensburg Rd. - Standard Oil Company Filling Station

Prince George's Co., MD

Tracenes

1/98

Maryland SHPO

Filling Station, SW Elevation

4 of 5



PG: 68-91  
3800 Bladensburg Rd. - Standard Oil Filling Station  
Prince George's Co., MD

Traceries

1/98

Maryland SHPO

Office, SW Elevation

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